

The Chain of Light

Tazkira
Masha'ikh-e-Qaadiriyah
Razviyah



39th Noor

Mujaddid-e-Deen-o-Millat, A'la Hazrat Imam

Ahmed Raza Khan

رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

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39th Noor

Shaykh ul Islam Wal
Muslimeen Has'saanul
Hind, Mujaddid-e-Deen-
o-Millat, A'la Hazrat Ash
Shah Imam Ahmed
Raza Khan

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ
عَلَيْهِ

His Position In The Silsila : Shaykh ul Islam wal Muslimeen, Aayat min Aayatillah, Has'saan-e-Zamaa, Burhaanul Awliyah, Haami-e-Sunnat, Qaami-e-Bid'at Mujaddid-e-Deen-o-Millat A'la Hazrat Ash Shah Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Qaadiri Barakaati رحمۃ اللہ علیہ is the thirty ninth Shaykh of the Silsila Aaliyah Qaadiriya Barkaatiyah Razviyah Nooriyah.

His Birth: Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was born on a Monday, the 10th of Shawwal 1272 A.H. (14th June 1856), at the time of Zuhra Salaah in a place called Jasoli, which is in the city of Bareilly Shareef, India. A few days before the birth of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, his father, Allama Maulana Naqi Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, had a wonderful dream. He immediately disclosed this dream to his father, Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, who interpreted this dream by saying: *'This is a sign that you are going to be the father of a child, a male, who will grow up to be pious and knowledgeable. His name will gain prominence from East to West.'*

This was the good news that was given to Allama Maulana Naqi Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ concerning the birth of none other than the 'emerald from amongst the Treasures of Almighty Allah', the 'sweet-scented rose from the fragrant garden of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم', Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

His Name : The name that was given to him at birth was the beautiful name 'Muhammad'. The name corresponding to that year of his birth was 'Al Mukhtar'. His grandfather, a great Scholar of the Ahle Sunnah Wa Jamaah, Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, also gave the young child the beautiful name of 'Ahmed Raza.' It was by this name that he was famously known. Much later in his life, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ added the title 'Abdul Mustafa' to his name signifying his great love and respect for Sayyiduna Rasoolullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

Illustrious Family History : Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Al-Qaadiri, was the son of Allama Maulana Naqi Ali Khan, who was the son of Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan, who was son of Allama Maulana Mohammed Kaazim Ali Khan, who was the son of Allama Maulana Shah Mohammed Azam Khan, who was the son of Allama Maulana Sa'adat Yaar Khan, who was the son of Allama Maulana Sa'eedullah Khan (radi Allahu anhum ajma'in). The great forefathers of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ migrated from Qandhar (Kabul) during the Mogul rule and settled in Lahore. Allama Maulana Sa'eedullah Khan, the first forefather of A'la Hazrat held a high government post when he arrived in the Indo-Pak sub-continent. His son, Allama Maulana Sa'adat Yaar Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, after gaining victory in the city of Ruhailah, was elected as the Governor of that city. Allama Maulana Hafiz Kaazim Ali Khan, the son of Maulana Mohammed Azam Khan (radi Allahu anhum), was a Revenue Officer in the city of Badayoun. His son, Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, the illustrious grandfather of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, did not serve in the Government. It was from this generation that the heads of the family began to adopt Tasawwuf as their way of life.

His Piety : Another incident which happened in the Month of Ramadaan also shows A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ piety and fear of Allah. Fasting was not Fard (obligatory) upon him because he was still a child, but on that day he intended to keep fast. It should be known that for a little child to keep fast in India during the summer season was very difficult. The average temperature on a summer's day rises to approximately 45 degrees Celsius. On that day, the heat of the sun was intense. Hazrat Allama Naqi Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ took his young son, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, into a room where sweets were kept. He closed the door and said, 'There, eat the sweets'. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ replied that he was fasting. His father then said, 'The fasting of children is always like this. The door is closed and no one is looking. Now you may eat.' On hearing this, the young A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ respectfully said, 'By Whose command I am fasting, He is Seeing me.' On hearing this answer

from a little child, tears began to flow from the eyes of Hazrat Allama Naqi Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He then left the room with A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

His Features : He was a very handsome personality. He had very beautiful eyes, a broad forehead which always shone brightly, a bright and handsome face, firm nose, a very beautiful voice, a broad chest filled with the knowledge and wisdom of Deen, beautiful feet which were firm on the Seeraat-e-Mustaqeem.

A'la Hazrat's First Lecture : Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ delivered his first lecture at the age of 6 years. It was during the glorious month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ stood on the Mimbar (Pulpit) and delivered a lecture before a very large gathering which also consisted of Ulama. His lecture lasted for approximately 2 hours. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ spoke on the Wilaadat (Birth) of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ. He brightened the hearts of the listeners with the love of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ.

The people listening were thoroughly impressed by the maturity and eloquence of this lecture which was being delivered by a 6 year old child!

His Intelligence As A Child : A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was so gifted and intelligent that there was no need for him to study beyond the fourth Kitaab of his course under the tutorship of any of his teachers. He studied the remaining Kitaabs by himself and used to later ask his teachers to test him. Once, his teacher asked him, 'Mia! Are you a Jinn or a human being? It takes me much time to teach a lesson, but it does not take you much time to learn the same lesson.' A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ answered, 'Praise be to Allah that I am a human.'

At the age of 10, when he was studying the Kitaab, 'I'lm-us-Thuboot', under the guidance of his father, he noticed a few objections and answers

of his father on the side of the page. A'la Hazrat ﷺ studied this book carefully and wrote such a well- explained footnote that even the need for an objection was ruled out. His father came across his research on that objection. He was so delighted that he stood up and held the young A'la Hazrat ﷺ to his heart and said, 'Ahmad Raza! You do not learn from me, but you teach me.'

An Astonishing Event During Childhood : At the age of 3, A'la Hazrat ﷺ was once standing outside the Raza Musjid in Bareilly Shareef. an 'unknown' person, attired in an Arabian garb, approached him and spoke to him in the Arabic language. Those who were present and witnessed this incident heard the young A'la Hazrat ﷺ converse with this person in pure Arabic. They were surprised. The person who spoke to A'la Hazrat ﷺ was never seen again in Bareilly Shareef!

Commencement of Islamic Education: During A'la Hazrat's ﷺ 'Bismillah Khwaani' or 'Commencement of Islamic Education' a very strange incident occurred. His respected teacher asked him to read the Tasmiyah, and then told him to read 'Alif, Baa, Taa, . . . ' A'la Hazrat ﷺ began reading the 'Alif, Baa, Taa, ...' until he came to the word 'Laam Alif' at which point A'la Hazrat ﷺ became silent. When his teacher asked him once more to read 'Laam Alif' he remained silent. The teacher instructed him, 'Say, Laam Alif.' Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat ﷺ, then replied, 'I have already read them earlier on. What need is there for me to repeat it?'

Hazrat Allama Raza Ali Khan ﷺ who was witnessing this incident said, 'Son! Listen to what your Ustad is saying.' Upon further reflection, Hazrat Allama Raza Ali Khan ﷺ realised the reason for the objection of the young A'la Hazrat ﷺ. It was because the teacher was teaching A'la Hazrat ﷺ the lesson on single alphabets. A'la Hazrat ﷺ felt that how was it

possible that a complete word like 'Laam Alif' should be found in such a lesson that only dealt with single alphabets!

Hazrat Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ knew that it was a very delicate matter that could not be understood by a child. Nevertheless, he explained, 'Son! It is true that which you are thinking of. But the Alif which you had earlier read, in reality, is Hamza and this which you are reciting now is Alif. The Alif is always Saakin and one cannot commence with an alphabet which is Saakin. Therefore, it is for this reason that the alphabet Laam is brought before the Alif.'

When A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ heard this answer, he replied, 'If that be the case, then any other alphabet could be joined to the Alif. Why the Laam?' Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, out of sheer happiness and excitement, embraced the young A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and made Dua for him. He then explained the answer to A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ in the following brilliant manner: 'When we look at both of them, they both appear to be very much alike, since they are both empty. Even when writing them together they look very much alike. In regard to their qualities, then Laam is the heart of Alif and Alif is the heart of Laam.' In doing this, Hazrat Allama Maulana Raza Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was in reality opening the doors and the treasures of knowledge and spiritual insight to the young A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was only 4 years old when he completed the recitation of the Holy Quran. Due to the extraordinary intelligence bestowed upon him by Almighty Allah, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ completed his Islamic education at the very young age of 13 years, 10 months and 5 days. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ states that, '*I completed my religious education during the middle of the month of Sha'baan in the year 1286 A.H. I was 13 years, 10 months and 5 days old at that time. It was also at this time that Salaah became Fard upon me and I began to have great interest in the Laws of Shariah*'. [Al Ijaazatur Radawiyya]

A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ gained his basic knowledge at home. He later continued his studies under the guidance of certain noted teachers. He studied under his father, Hazrat Allama Maulana Naqi Ali Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He completed his primary education under the tutorship of Janaab Mirza Ghulam Qaadir Baig. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ also studied under the guidance of the following luminous personalities :

1. Hazrat Maulana Abdul Ali Rampuri رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
2. Shaykh-e-Kabeer, Hazrat Allama Syed Shah Abul Hussain Ahmed Noori رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
3. Shaykh-e-Tariqah, Hazrat Allama Shah Ale Rasool Mahrarewi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
4. Shaykh Ahmed bin Zaini Dahlaan Makki رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
5. Shaykh Abdur Rahmaan Makki رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
6. Shaykh Hussain bin Saleh Makki رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

A'la Hazrat's First Fatawa: In a letter sent to his illustrious Khalifa, Malikul Ulama, Hazrat Maulana Zafrud'deen Bihari, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ wrote, *'With the Grace of Almighty Allah, this servant wrote his first Fatwa at the age of 13. It is also at this age that I completed my religious education and gained a certificate of proficiency in this field. On this day, a question was put forward to me as to whether milk, if reaching the belly of a child, would prove fosterage or not? I replied that even if milk reached the child's belly, either through the nose or mouth, fosterage would be proven, therefore, making it Haraam upon the child to marry this Women.'* [Al Malfooz, Part I Pg.12]

His father was so amazed and delighted by this in-depth reply that he assigned the young A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ the task of issuing Fatwas (Islamic Verdicts). For many years, thereafter, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ fulfilled this very important duty with absolute dignity and responsibility. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ answered hundreds of Fatawa daily. They came to him in Arabic, Urdu, Persian, English and many other languages.

His Marriage And Blessed Children: In the year 1291 A.H. (1874), A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ married Sayyidah Irshaad Begum رحمۃ اللہ علیہا who was the beloved daughter of Shaykh Fadhl Hussain Sahib. He was 18 years old at the time of his Nikah.

Almighty Allah blessed A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ with 7 beautiful children - 2 sons and 5 daughters. Both his sons became distinguished Islamic Scholars and great Awliyah Allah. His sons were Hujjatul Islam Maulana Haamid Raza Khan and Ghausul Waqt Huzoor Mufti-e-Azam Hind (radi Allahu anhum).

Branches Of Knowledge Attained At His Father's Feet : A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ became proficient in the following branches of knowledge at the feet of his father: Tafseer of the Holy Quran, Tashreeh of Ahadith, Principles of Ahadith (Usool-e-Hadith), Islamic Jurisprudence (All Four Schools of Thought), Principles of Jurisprudence (Usool-e-Fiqh), Dialectics, Quranic Commentary, Principles of Belief, Principles of Debate, Arabic Syntax, Principles of Rhetoric, Language Usage of Metaphors, Science Dealing with Rhetoric, Logistics, Debates, Philosophy and Politics, Rhetoric Devices, Physics, Mathematics, Physical Engineering. In the book, 'Al Ijaazat ul Mutay'yanah', on page 22, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ has said the following in connection with the above mentioned twenty branches of knowledge. He says, 'I learnt these twenty branches of knowledge, personally at the feet of my father'.

Other Branches Of Knowledge Attained From Various Ulama : He learnt Quranic Recitation, Correct Recitation with Tajweed, Mysticism, Mystical Initiation, Islamic Ethics, Names of Narrators of Ahadith, Biography of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, Islamic History, In-depth Study of Arabic and Literature. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ states: 'These ten branches of knowledge, I achieved at the feet of the following teachers: Shah Ale Rasool Mahrahrewi, Maulana Naqi Ali Khan, Shaykh Ahmed Bin Zain Dahlaan

Makki, Shaykh Abdur Rahmaan Makki, Shaykh Hussain Bin Saleh Makki, Shah Abul Hussain Ahmed Noori (Alaihimur Rahma).’

Branches of Knowledge Attained without the Assistance of Any Teacher: A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ learnt Arithmetic, Algebra, the Twelve Branches of Mathematics, Modern Astronomy, Science of Inheritance, Science of Prosody, Astronomy, Science of History, Prose in Hindi, and Prose in Persian, In-depth Study of Arabic and In-depth Study of Plain Persian Writing. When A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was questioned about his amazing capabilities in solving intricate and confusing Mathematical theories, and as to who his mentor was, he replied, ‘I did not have a teacher in this field. Whatever you see, I achieved within the four walls of my room. This is indeed through the Grace of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ.’ [Al Mizaan, Pg. 34]

Proficiency In Over Fifty Branches Of Knowledge : If we study the life of A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, we will discover that his proficiency in various subjects total over fifty four branches of knowledge. Is it possible today, to find an Islamic scholar or even a non-Muslim professor, scientist, educationist or a Nobel Prize owner who possesses such qualifications? Definitely not!

Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran: Many people have translated the Holy Quran into the Urdu language, but the translation of the Holy Quran presented by A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ called ‘Kanz ul Imaan’ is proven to be the most unique translation in the Urdu language. In his translation one sees that A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ used only those words in his translation that are worthy for the Attributes and Qualities of Almighty Allah and of His beloved Rasool ﷺ. It is said that the translation of the Holy Quran by A’la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ is not merely a literal translation, but is also the commentary of the Holy Quran. In the words of Hazrat Sayyiduna Muhadith-e-Azam Hind رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, ‘It is not just the Translation of the Quran, it is

the Quran.’

We have taken just one example of a Verse from the Holy Quran that has been translated by various persons and compared it with the beautiful translation of A’la Hazrat ﷺ. We have taken Sura 93, Verse 7 as an example:

(1) ‘And he found you lost on the way and he guided thee.’ Translation by Mohammad Asad

(2) ‘And found thee groping so he showed the way.’ Translation by Muhammad Ali Lahori Qadiani

(3) ‘And He found you uninformed of Islamic laws so he told you the way of Islamic laws.’ Translation by Ashraf Ali Thanwi

(4) ‘Did he not find thee erring and guide thee.’ Translation by Arberry

(5) ‘And saw you unaware of the way so showed you the straight way.’ Translation by Fatheh Muhammad Jalledhri

(6) ‘And he found thee wandering and He gave thee guidance.’ Translation by Yusuf Ali

Now that we have examined six different translations of Sura 93, Verse 7, let us examine the difference and the uniqueness of the translation of Sayyiduna A’la Hazrat ﷺ:

‘And He Found You Self Engrossed In His Love Therefore Gave Way Unto Him’

Look at the uniqueness and the caution that is present in this translation of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan ﷺ! He abstained from using those words that may cause any disrespect to the dignity and personality of the Holy Prophet ﷺ!

Due to the vast amount of time A’la Hazrat ﷺ spent in compiling books on Fiqh and various other topics, it was not possible for him to compile a

complete commentary of the Holy Quran. However, a few learned scholars have stated that if all the books of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ have to be brought together then there is a great possibility that a complete commentary of the Holy Quran may be compiled. Like his translation of the Holy Quran, they have said that his Tafseer will also be exceptional.

Authority In The Field Of Ahadith : Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was also a great authority of his time in subjects of Ahadith and Usool-e-Ahadith. He knew the names of almost every Hadith narrator. When he was questioned concerning details of a certain narrator, he was able to give a complete biography of the narrator. When he studied any Hadith he was able to explain the type of Hadith, its benefits and the reasons behind that Hadith.

A Great Jurist Of His Time : Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) is that branch of knowledge that is derived from the Holy Quran and the Ahadith of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم. Only that person can be a proper Jurist who is well-versed in both the Holy Quran and the Ahadith of Rasoolullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم. He must also be well-versed in and all the other important branches of knowledge, such as Tafseer, Logic, Philosophy, Translating, and many other branches of knowledge. Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was regarded as the greatest Jurist of his era. He was totally proficient in the field of Fiqh and received acceptance by the great Ulama of the East and the West. The greatest proof of his position and status in the world of Fiqh can be understood from his answers concerning the Shariat-e-Mustafa صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, which was compiled into 12 large volumes, comprising of approximately 12 000 pages to form the famous book, 'Fatawa Razviyah' which is used in every Darul Ifta (Fatawa Departments) around the world today.

His Knowledge Of Philosophy And Science : Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was a great Scientist and Philosopher. He understood Science and

Philosophy better than anyone in his time. He was a master of Ancient and Modern Sciences. He proved through research that various concepts of the modern day science are illogical and against the theories of the Holy Quran and the Ahadith. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ wrote many books on Science and Physics. One of his famous books, 'Fauze Mubeen Dar Harkate Zameen,' using the Holy Quran as its guidelines, proves that the earth is not rotating but is stationary.

A Mathematical Genius : A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was also a great Mathematician. He used to solve the most difficult mathematical problems in a short space of time. His authority in the field of mathematics will leave modern-day mathematicians wide-mouthed. Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Logarithms, and other branches of Mathematics which are normally handled with great difficulty even by mathematics students, seemed like ordinary addition and subtraction to A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ!

Once, Sir Zia'ud'deen, a famous Mathematician, was in a predicament with regards to part of his research in the mathematical field. He had to go to Berlin in Germany to seek a solution to this intricate problem. It so happened that a certain Maulana from the famous Aligarh University advised Sir Zia'ud'deen to visit A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ to seek a solution to his mathematical problem. But, Sir Zia'ud'deen, not sounding very confident said, 'What will an ordinary Maulana like Maulana Ahmed Raza be able to solve? He hasn't even gone out of his city to gain knowledge, so it is obvious that his knowledge is very limited.' Nevertheless, after some convincing, he agreed to visit A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. When he arrived in Bareilly Shareef, he immediately went to A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. Presenting the intricate mathematical problem to A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ he said, 'I am now going to Germany. I will come back for the answer, that is, if you do manage to solve it.' As he was speaking, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was on his way to the Musjid. Before entering the Musjid, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ answered his problem.

When Sir Zia'ud'deen read what was written on this paper, he realised that it contained the solution to his mathematical problem that had him so confused. Sir Zia'ud'deen then said, *'Today I believe that there is something known as I'lm-e-laduni (inspired knowledge).'*

Contribution To The Field Of Poetry : Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ spent much of his valuable time writing Poetry. His Poetry mostly consisted of Naat Shareef in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم and Manqabats. In all the Naat Shareefs that were written by A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, it is evident that his heart and soul was drowned in the love of the Holy Prophet Muhammad صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم. A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ poetry was compiled to form the famous, 'Hidayake Bakhshish,' (Gardens of Forgiveness). This famous Naat Kitaab is used throughout the world. A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ humble compilations are read by all who wish to express their love for Sayyiduna Rasoolullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

Bai'at and Khilaafat: In the year 1294 A.H., at the age of 22 years, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ became the Mureed (Disciple) of Imam-ul-Asfiya, Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool Marehrwi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. The incident surrounding the Bai'at (Spiritual Allegiance) and Khilaafat (Spiritual Successor-ship) of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ is as follows: Once Hazrat Maulana Abdul Qadir Badayouni رحمۃ اللہ علیہ came to Bareilly Shareef. He invited A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ to go to Mahrehra Shareef with him. Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ accepted his invitation and they both set off to Marehra Shareef. When they arrived at the station in Marehrah Shareef, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ said, *'I am receiving the fragrance of my Murshid.'*

When they reached the Khanqah-e-Barakaati and entered, Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool رحمۃ اللہ علیہ saw A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and said, *'Come in. I have been*

awaiting your presence for a long time.’ Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool ﷺ immediately made A’la Hazrat ﷺ a Mureed and blessed him with Khilaafat and Ijaazat in all the Sufi Silsilas. Thus, A’la Hazrat’s ﷺ Peer-o-Murshid (Spiritual Guide) was Hazrat Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool Marehrwi ﷺ.

Hazrat Sayyiduna Abul Hussain Noori Barakaati ﷺ, who was also the Peer-o-Murshid of Maulana Mustafa Raza Khan ﷺ, was also present in this spiritual gathering. He was also a great Wali and needed no introduction to Sayyiduna A’la Hazrat ﷺ. For the benefit of the others who were present and to make them aware of the exalted calibre and status of A’la Hazrat ﷺ, he asked Hazrat Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool ﷺ a question. He asked, *‘Huzoor! the ritual here at Marehra Shareef is that If any person comes here, and after becoming Mureed desires to gain Khilaafat and Ijaazat, then we ask him to perform Mujaahida (struggle in the path of Allah). We also give him dry bread to eat as part of his spiritual training. After this, If we find him worthy enough, then we grant him Khilaafat and Ijaazat in one or two Silsilas, but you have blessed this young man with Khilaafat and Ijaazat of all the Silsilas, and even commanded him to look at and verify all the Kitaabs which you have written. Why is this so?’*

Sayyiduna Shah Aale Rasool ﷺ answered with the following words: *‘O People! you do not know Ahmed Raza. Others who come here need to be prepared before gaining Ijaazat and Khilaafat, but Ahmed Raza Khan has come prepared from Almighty Allah. All he needed was a link and this is why I made him Mureed.’*

‘I always teared in the fear of Almighty Allah that if on the day of Qiyaamah, he questioned me concerning what I had brought for him from the world, then I would have no answer. But, today, that fear no longer exists. If on the day of Qiyaamah the Almighty asks, ‘O Aale Rasool! What have you brought for me?’

then, I will immediately present Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ to my Creator.'

This highly spiritual incident alone explains the status of A'la Hazrat, Azeem ul Barkat, Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

A'la Hazrat's Mureeds and Khulafa: There were many Mureeds (Disciples) and Khulafa (Spiritual Successors) of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. They have spread far and wide over the Indo-Pak and also in all parts of the world. Nearly 35 are in other parts of the world and 30 in the Indo-Pak Sub-Continent.

Some of his foremost Khulafa are: *Hujjatul Islam Hazrat Allama Maulana Muhammad Haamid Raza Khan Noori Barakaati, Ghausul-Waqt Mufti-e-Azam Hind, Hazrat Maulana Mustafa Raza Khan Noori Barakaati, Hazrat Allama Maulana Abdus Salaam Jabalपुरي, Sadrul Afaadil Hazrat Allama Maulana Na'eemuddeen Muraadabadi, Malikul Ulama Hazrat Allama Maulana Sayyid Zafar'uddeen Bihaari, Mubbalig-e-Azam Hazrat Allama Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddique, Sadrus Shariah Hazrat Allama Maulana Mufti Amjad Ali, Qutbul Madinatul Munawwara Hazrat Allama Shaykh Zia'uddeen Ahmed Al Madani, Burhaan-e-Millat Hazrat Allama Burhaanul Haq, Hazrat Allama Maulana Mukhtar Ahmad Siddiqi Meerati, Shaykh Muhammad Abd al-Hayy, Shaykh Ahmad Khalil, Shaykh Ahmad Khudravi, Shaykh Muhammad bin Abi Bakr, Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id, Hazrat Maulana Sayyid Ahmad Ashraf & Hazrat Maulana Shah Sulayman Ashraf (Allah be pleased with them all)*

The Khulafa of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ need no introduction to the Muslim World. Their impact, influence and contribution towards the development of Islamic Culture and Islamic thinking have left its mark in the pages of history. For the sake of attaining blessings and Barakah, we will discuss, very briefly, the lives of two of the famous Khulafa of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

Qadi Sadrush Shariah , *Hazrat Allama Amjad Ali Razvi* ﷺ

He was born in 1296 A.H. and passed away in 1367 A.H. at the age of 71 years. He is author of the internationally renowned book, 'Bahaar e Shariat', in eighteen bulky chapters. This book contains a volume of information dealing with the Hanafi Law of Fiqh and answers questions pertaining to it. It is presently a 'Handbook' of all Muslim institutions. This Khalifa of A'la Hazrat ﷺ was one of the Head Advisers of the Department of Islamic Deeniyat at the Aligarh Muslim University. Maulvi Sulaiman Nadwi (a non-Sunni) said the following words concerning Allama Sadrush Shariat ﷺ, 'Maulana Amjad Ali is totally experienced in the field of teaching and he is well-versed in solving the new needs of the classroom.'

Hazrat Allama Amjad Ali ﷺ also propagated Islam to the non-Muslims. He spent much of his time teaching. He was blessed with 8 sons and each one of them became great Aalims. His 2 daughters became Aalimas. One of his sons, Muhadith-e-Kabeer, Hazrat Allama Zia-ul-Mustafa Qaadiri is one of the greatest scholars in the Muslim world today. He is without doubt an example of his illustrious father. He is a personality that knows in memory, approximately sixty thousand Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ. Hazrat Muhadith-e-Kabeer is the Former Principal of Al Jami'atul Ashrafiyah Mubarakpur, and also the rector and founder of the well recognised Jaamia Amjadia in Ghausi. He has also established a Darul Uloom for girls, by the name of 'Kulyatul Banaatil Amjadia. He has been blessed with great knowledge and wisdom. He is presently recognised as one of the most learned persons in the field of Hadith and Fiqh. Allama Baha-ul-Mustafa

Qaadiri is another son of Allama Sadrush Shariah رحمہ اللہ. He thought for many years at the most famous Darul Uloom in the world, Madrassa Manzar-e-Islam, which has been established by A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمہ اللہ. He is currently the Principal of Al Jamiatur Raza which is the world renowned Darul Uloom that is being constructed by Huzoor Taajush Shariah Allama Mufti Mohammed Akhtar Raza Khan Qaadiri Azhari Qibla in Bareilly Shareef.

Qutb-e-Madina

Allama Shaykh Zia'uddeen Al Madani رحمہ اللہ

He was one of the most famous Khulafa of A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ who lived in Madinatul Munawwara. Before coming to Madinatul Munawwara he lived for some time in Baghdad Shareef. Allama Zia'uddeen Madani رحمہ اللہ arrived in Madinatul Munawwara in the year 1327 A.H. Here, he made Nikah to a pious lady from a Sayyid family. He was a great Aalim, Sufi and Wali of his time. He hailed from a very illustrious family. His father was the famous Allama Abdul Hakim Siyalkoti رحمہ اللہ, a powerful Islamic Scholar of his time, who gave the title of 'Mujaddid-e-Alf Thaani' to Imam Rabbani, Imam Ahmed Sirhindi Farooqi رحمہ اللہ, the Mujaddid of the 11th Islamic Century. With the exception of being the Khalifa of A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ, he also gained Khilaafat from various other Akaabireen (Great Ulama). Some of them are: Hazrat Allama Shaykh Ahmad Shams Maghribi, Shaykh Mahmoodul Maghribi, Maulana Abdul Baaqi Farangi, and Allama Abu Yusuf Nabhaani (radi Allahu Ta'aala anhum ajma'in). He left this mundane world on the 12th of August 1981 in the city of Madinatul Munawwara. His son, Hazrat Allama Fadhl-ur Rahmaan Al Madani, was also living in Madinatul Munaw'wara and followed closely in the footsteps of his illustrious father. He too recently passed away in the Holy City of the Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

A'LA HAZRAT'S FIRST HAJJ : The opportunity of performing his first Hajj and Ziyaarah was granted to A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ on the 26th of Shawwal 1295 A.H. (1876). He was 20 years of age. One day, after completing his Hajj, he went to perform his Maghrib Salaah before the Maqaam-e-Ibrahim عليه السلام. Having completed his Salaah, the Imam of the Shafi'i order of Makkatul Mukarramah, Allama Hussain bin Saleh Kamaal رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, approached him. He clutched A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ by his hand and led him to his house. The great Imam then placed his hand on the blessed forehead of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and said: *'Verily, I am observing the Noor of Almighty Allah on this forehead.'*

Without hesitation, he blessed A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ with the Sanad (Certificate) of Sahih Sitta (Six Compilers of Hadith: Bukhari, Muslim, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawood, Tirmizi and Nasa'i). He also began addressing A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ by the title of 'Zia'uddeen' or 'The Light or Splendour of Deen.' A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was also blessed with the Sanads of Ahadith from the Muftis of the Hanafi order in Makkatul Mukarramah, Sayyiduna Allama Abdur Rahmaan Siraaj and Mufti Shaykh Sayyid Ahmad Dahlaan Shafi'i (radi Allahu anhuma).

It was also during this historical visit that Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ informed the Ulama-e-Haramain Sharifain concerning the blasphemous and corrupt beliefs of the Ulama-e-Deoband. Having studied A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ books, 'aljaamu sunnah li ahli fitna' and 'al mu'tamadul mustanad', which he presented to them, they also gave their verdicts on those who committed blasphemy and those who had written words of disrespect against Almighty Allah and his Beloved Rasool ﷺ. The verdicts of the Ulama of Makkatul Mukarramah and Madinatul Munaw'wara were compiled to form the famous book, 'Husaamul Haramain'

A'la Hazrat's Second Hajj : At the age of 49, A'la Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ performed his second Hajj in 1323 A.H. (1905). He was 49 years

old. On the 25th of Zil-Hajj, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ once again had the opportunity of meeting the great Imam, Shaykh Saleh Kamaal رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He also met Allama Sayyid Isma'eel رحمۃ اللہ علیہ and many other noble Ulama, who showed great respect towards him. It was on this occasion that Allama Shaykh Saleh Kamaal رحمۃ اللہ علیہ presented A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ with five questions pertaining to I'lm-e-Ghaib (Knowledge of the Unseen). These questions were posed on behalf of the wahabi Ulama of Makkatul Mukarramah. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ had to answer these five questions in two days. It so happened that on the following day, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ contracted a heavy fever. In spite of his illness, he managed to answer the questions relating to I'lm-e-Ghaib. In fact, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ presented such a detailed answer to the questions of I'lm-e-Ghaib that it turned out to be a complete treatise on its own. He named this book, 'Ad Daulat ul Makkiyah Bil Maadatil Ghaibiya.' The Learned Ulama of Haramain Sharifain were totally astounded when A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ presented this book to them on time. He completed this book of approximately 400 pages in only 8 hours. It was also in the classical Arabic language. If one totals the numerical values of the Arabic letters of the title of this book, 'Ad Daulat ul Makkiyah Bil Maadatil Ghaibiya,' one would discover that they amount to 1323. It was the same year (1323 A.H.) in which A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ wrote this book.

In The Presence Of The Holy Prophet ﷺ : It was during A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ second visit to the Haramain Sharifain that his aspiration to see the Holy Prophet ﷺ became very great. Continuously reciting the Durood Shareef with great veneration and humbleness in front of the Rauza-e-Shareef of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, he felt confident of seeing the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It was during the second night of his visit to the Court of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ that he was given the opportunity of actually seeing the blessed personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. On that night, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, in a state of total submission, lifted his pen and

began writing a Naat in praise of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ. The first line of that Naat is: 'Wo Soo'e Laa la zaar Phirte hai ...' The beautiful Naat continues praising the Beloved of Allah ﷻ and ends with the following verse: 'Koyi Kyu Pooch teri baat Raza, Tujh se kutte hazaar phirte hai' (O Raza why should anyone ask about your condition. A thousand dogs like you wander in these blessed streets). Here, A'la Hazrat ﷺ lowers himself to the limits and addresses himself as the 'dog' of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. At this point, he was given the opportunity of seeing with his naked eyes the beloved personality of the Holy Prophet ﷺ standing beside the Rauza-e-Mubaarak.

His Love For The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: A'la Hazrat ﷺ spent every moment of his life praising the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Everything he did was for the Pleasure of Almighty Allah and His Rasool ﷺ. It has been recorded that Hazrat Maulana Na'eemud'deen Muradabadi once asked A'la Hazrat ﷺ the reason from him being so severe upon those who disrespected Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ. A'la Hazrat ﷺ replied, 'O Maulana! I am severe upon those people, because instead of insulting Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ, they should rather make me the target for their insults. I do not have any interest in what they are calling me. At least, while they are busy insulting me, my Beloved Master, Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ is spared from these insults.'

The above mentioned incident clearly highlights the following thoughts of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan ﷺ: *'If you desire my life, I will sacrifice it. If you desire my wealth I will give it. But, there is one thing that I will never sacrifice, and that is, the love and reverence for the beloved, Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ.'*

Love And Respect For The Descendants Of The Holy Prophet ﷺ: It is A'la Hazrat ﷺ who showed the Muslim world how to respect the descendants

or family of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. His entire life is filled such with incidents. Many are aware of this famous incident. Once, Imam Ahmed Raza Khan ﷺ was invited to the home of a certain person. In those days, the Ulama were transported on chariots. A'la Hazrat ﷺ was sitting in a chariot carried by the chariot-bearers. As they proceeded, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat ﷺ suddenly commanded the chariot-bearers to stop. He immediately alighted from the chariot and asked, 'Who from amongst you is a Sayyid? I am receiving the scent of a Sayyid.' One of the chariot-bearer's, who was a Sayyid, was too scared to speak. Nevertheless, when A'la Hazrat ﷺ further prompted that person to reveal himself, he came forward and admitted that he was Sayyid. With tears in his eyes, A'la Hazrat ﷺ fell at his feet and began asking for pardon. The Sayyid continuously asked A'la Hazrat ﷺ to refrain from doing so but, A'la Hazrat ﷺ continued asking for pardon, by saying, 'Please forgive me. What would I do on the day of Qiyaamah if the Holy Prophet ﷺ asks me concerning this incident, and says to me that I showed disrespect to his family?' The Sayyid readily forgave A'la Hazrat ﷺ. But this Aashiq-e-Rasool ﷺ was yet not satisfied. He commanded the Sayyid to sit on the Chariot, and placing the chariot on his blessed shoulders, carried the Sayyid for the same distance for which he had been carried.

Adherence to the Sunnah: Imam Ahmed Raza Khan ﷺ laid great emphasis on following of the Sunnah of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ. The following account clearly describes A'la Hazrat's ﷺ great trust and faith upon the Sunnah. A'la Hazrat ﷺ narrates, 'There was once a rumour in Bareilly, that the plague had surfaced. Co-incidentally, at that moment, my gums became extremely inflamed. It continued to such proportions that it became difficult for me to open my mouth. I also had a high fever, coupled with inflamed glands. The doctor who was called, looked at me closely for a few minutes. He exclaimed that I had the plague. I could not

Speak at that moment, or else I could have told him that his diagnosis was incorrect and false. I was certain that I did not have the Plague or any other major disease, simply because I had already recited a Dua as explained by Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ who said that if one sees a serious and deadly illness, he should recite the following Dua, which would protect the person from such an illness. I had, therefore, recited this Dua: *'Alhamdu lil laahil lazi Aafani mim mab talaka bihi wa fadhalani 'ala katheerim mim man khalaqa tafdeela'*

Whenever I saw a serious illness, I recited this Dua, therefore, I was protected against it, including the Plague. Thereafter, with extreme respect, I proclaimed aloud, 'O Allah! Let it be shown that the words of your beloved Habeeb ﷺ is true, and that the words of the doctor is false'. At that moment a voice on my right advised me to use the Miswak and black pepper.

With a little difficulty, I performed brushing with the Miswak and kept the black pepper on my tongue as a tablet. Infinite, indeed, is the Mercy of Almighty Allah! Within a few minutes, I had gained my strength and sent the doctor away by proving that his diagnosis was false and baseless.'

Love For Huzoor Ghaus-ul-Azam : Imam Ahmed Raza Khan ﷺ possessed immense love for Sayyiduna Ghausul Azam, Shaykh Abdul Qaadir Jilani Baghdadi ﷺ. Hazrat Muhadith-e-Azam Hind ﷺ reported that in the period when he was given permission to serve in the Darul Ifta at Bareilly Shareef, A'la Hazrat ﷺ bought sweets (Niyaz) to the value of 11 Rupees and made the Faateha of Sayyiduna Ghausul Azam ﷺ.

He then distributed the sweets to those who were present. While the sweets were being distributed, those who were present were astonished to see A'la Hazrat ﷺ standing up from his chair and kneeling down on the

floor in the Tashahud position. They immediately came closer to him too see what had happened. Then only did they realise that the person distributing the Niyaz had dropped a little on the ground, and A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was lifting this piece of Niyaz with the tip of his blessed tongue!

A'la Hazrat As The Mujaddid Of The 14th Century : Undoubtedly, besides being recognised as a great Wali, as the Ghausul Azam and as the Imam Abu Hanifa (radi Allahu anhum) of his time, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was also the Mujaddid (Reviver) of Islam of the 14th Century.

He possessed all the conditions of a Mujaddid and his entire life was spent trying to revive the Deen of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. A cloud of darkness had covered most of the world and the false concepts of polytheism (shirk) and Innovations (bid'at) were coming into existence.

The Muslims were in a state of confusion. They were surrounded by the cloud of Kufr (Disbelief), Shirk and Bid'at. It is through the Divine Grace of Almighty Allah and the Sadaqah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that the Reviver of the 14th Century, Imam-e-Ahle Sunnat, Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ shone like the sun. With his bright proofs, he destroyed the darkness of kufr and revived Islam.

A Hadith recorded in Mishkaat Shareef and quoted by Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah رضی اللہ عنہ who says that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said

‘Verily, at the end of every century, Almighty Allah will send such a person to the Ummah, who will revive the Deen for them (The Ummah).’

A List Of Known Mujaddids From The First Century

1st CENTURY :

- * Sayyiduna Imam Umar bin Abdul Aziz رضي الله عنه

2nd CENTURY :

- * Imam Hassan Basri رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Muhammad bin Hassan Shaibani رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Maalik bin Anas رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Abdullah bin Idrees Shaafi'i رضي الله عنه

3rd CENTURY :

- * Imam Abul Hassan bin Umar رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Ahmad bin Hambal رضي الله عنه

4th CENTURY :

- * Imam Tahtaawi رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Isma'eel bin Hamaad Ja'fari رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Abu Ja'far bin Jareer Tabri رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Abu Haatim Raazi رضي الله عنه

5th CENTURY :

- * Imam Abu Nu'aim Isfahani رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Abul Hussain Ahmad bin Muhammad Abi Bakr-il-Qaadir رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Hussain bin Raaghib رضي الله عنه
- * Imam Muhammad bin Muhammad Ghazzali رضي الله عنه

6th CENTURY :

- * Imam Abul Fadhl Umar Raazi رضي الله عنه
- * Allama Imam Umar Nasfi رضي الله عنه

- * Imam Qaazi Fakhrud'deen Hassan Mansoor رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Abu Muhammad Hussain bin Mas'ood Fara'a رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

7th CENTURY :

- * Imam Abul Fadhl Jamaaludeen Muhammad bin Afriqi Misri رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Shaykh Shahabudeen Suharwardi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Khaja Mu'eenud'deen Chishti Ajmeri رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Abul Hassan Iz'zuddeen Ali bin Muhammad رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Ibn Atheer, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Shaykh Akbar Muhiy'yuddeen Muhammad ibn Arabi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

8th CENTURY :

- * Imam Taajud'deen bin Ata'ullah Sikandari, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Khaja Nizaamudeen Awliyah Mahboob-e-Ilahi, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Umar bin Mas'ood Taftazaani رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

9th CENTURY :

- * Imam Hafiz Jalaalud'deen Abu Bakr Abdur Rahman Suyuti, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Nooruddeen bin Ahmad Misri, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Muhammad bin Yusuf Kirmani, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Shamsudeen Abul Khayr Muhammad bin Abdur Rahman Sakhawi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Allama Imam Sayyid Shareef Ali bin Muhammad Jarmaani رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

10th CENTURY :

- * Imam Shahabud'deen Abu Bakr Ahmad bin Muhammad Khatib Qastalaani رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Imam Muhammad Sharbini, رحمۃ اللہ علیہ
- * Allama Shaykh Muhammad Taahir Muhadith رحمۃ اللہ علیہ

11th CENTURY :

- * Imam Ali bin Sultaan Qaari, رحمہ اللہ
- * Imam Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi Mujaddid-e-Alf Thaani, رحمہ اللہ
- * Sultaanul Aarifeen Imam Muhammad Baahu رحمہ اللہ

12th CENTURY :

- * Allama Maulana Imam Abul Hassan Muhammad bin Abdul Haadi Sindhi, رحمہ اللہ
- * Imam Abdul Ghani Naablsi, رحمہ اللہ
- * Shaykh Ahmad Mulla Jeewan رحمہ اللہ

13th CENTURY :

- * Imam Abdul Ali Lucknowi, رحمہ اللہ
- * Imam Shaykh Ahmad Saadi Maaliki, رحمہ اللہ
- * Allama Imam Ahmad bin Isma'eel Tahtaawi, رحمہ اللہ
- * Allama Shah Abdul Azeez Muhadith-e-Delhwi رحمہ اللہ

14TH Century:

- * Imam-e-Ahle Sunnah, Qaami-e-bid'at, Mujaddid-e-Azam, A'la Hazrat, Ash Shah Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمہ اللہ

A'la Hazrat's Jihad Against The Insulters Of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ :

Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ spent much of his time also refuting those who insulted the dignity of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He left no stone unturned in safe-guarding the dignity and integrity of Holy Prophet ﷺ, in spite of being personally attacked by the misguided. These personal attacks did not bother him in the least bit! The adversaries of A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ levelled many accusations and tried desperately in defending their kufr statements. After much proofs, when it became absolutely clear to A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ that certain misguided individuals were not prepared to

withdraw their Kufr statements and make Tauba. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ passed the 'Fatwa-e-Takfeer' on these people in order to protect Islam and the Muslim Ummah.

We should remember that he passed the 'Fatawa-e-Takfeer' (Kufr Fatawa) against those persons who insulted the status and dignity of Almighty Allah and His Rasool ﷺ. He passed the Fatawa-e-Takfeer on persons such as Ashraf Ali Thanwi, Rasheed Ahmed Gangohi and Khalil Ahmad Ambetwi and others because, through their writings, it was evident that they had insulted the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat's رحمۃ اللہ علیہ cautiousness in declaring a person a Kaafir is to be noted in many of his books. In his book, 'Subhaanus Subooh', he academically destroys the arguments of Molwi Ismail Dehlwi. Yet, at the end of the book, A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ says, 'The Ulama have not termed this individual as a Kaafir, therefore, one has to be careful.'

Once again, refuting the arguments of Molwi Ismail Dehlwi and a few of his 'infamous' followers in another book, 'Al Kaukabatush Sha'haabiya', A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ says, 'In our opinion (the opinion of Islam), to term a person a Kaafir and to control one's tongue is an act of extreme precaution and analysis.' In another treatise entitled, 'Sallus Suyooful Hindiya', A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ states: *'There is indeed a difference between accepting words of Kufr and branding a person a Kaafir. We have to be extremely careful. We have to remain silent. If there is the minutest possibility that he is still a Muslim, we should fear terming that person a Kaafir.'*

Some Titles Bestowed Upon Him : The Coolness to the Eyes of the Ulama, A Beloved and Accepted Slave of Almighty Allah, the Seal of Great Islamic Research Scholars, A Leader of Ulama, the Mujaddid of this Century, The Leader Amongst Imams, The Leader Among Mystics, The Pride of Great Preceding Ulama And The Leader of Future Ulama.

Haafizul Quran: A'la Hazrat ﷺ was initially not a Haafiz-ul-Quran. Once, someone wrote a letter to Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat ﷺ and addressed him as 'Haafiz'. When A'la Hazrat ﷺ saw this, he became depressed for he felt that he was not worthy of such a title. He immediately decided to become a Hafiz of the Holy Quran. How did he become a Haafiz-ul-Quran? During the month of Ramadaan, Hazrat Allama Sadrush Shariah ﷺ would recite one sipara to A'la Hazrat ﷺ between the Azaan and Jama'at. Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat ﷺ would listen to it and, thereafter, recite the same sipara in the Taraweeh Salaah. He continued this routine for 30 days, and by the end of Ramadaan, A'la Hazrat ﷺ had memorised the entire Quran Shareef.

His Blessed Character : Both the inner and outer personality of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat ﷺ was the same. He never compromised when it came to Shariat-e-Mustafa ﷺ. He used to reprimand anyone who even uttered one word against Shariah. He was the living example of: *'Love for the Sake of Almighty Allah and Hate for the Sake of Allah.'* He never hurt the feelings of any good Muslim. He showed a splendid amount of affection towards the poor and orphans.

A Few Karaamats (Miracles) Of A'la Hazrat : Without any exaggeration, an entire book on the Karaamats (Miracles) of A'la Hazrat ﷺ can be compiled. In this time, the greatest Karaamat that any person can display is his adherence to Shariat-e-Mustafa ﷺ. A'la Hazrat ﷺ never fell short of this in any way. We also wish to state that, in reality, the mere existence of A'la Hazrat ﷺ was a miracle on its own.

Janaab Amjad Ali was a resident of Bhasouri. He was a sincere Mureed of A'la Hazrat ﷺ. Once Amjad Ali took his rifle and went out hunting. While he was hunting, a stray bullet from his rifle accidentally hit a passer-by,

killing him. Amjad Ali was later arrested for murder. He was tried and then sentenced to death by hanging. A few days before his execution, a few members of his family came to visit him. With the mere thought of his execution, they began to weep bitterly. He smiled at them and said, 'Go home and do not weep. I will return on the day of my execution. My Peer-o-Murshid, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ has stated that he has released me.' On the night of his execution, his mother went to visit him. Thinking how near the time of his execution had come, she began to weep out of fear. But Amjad Ali's faith in the words of his Peer-o-Murshid was very strong. He asked his mother to go home and to stop worrying. He told her that through the Will of Almighty Allah, he will return home in a little while to have breakfast with her. Being visibly shaken, she returned home. The time had finally arrived. Amjad Ali was escorted to the gallows to be hanged. The noose was put around his neck. The authorities asked him if he had any final request. Very calmly, he replied, 'There is no need to request anything. My time of death has not yet arrived.' The authorities were baffled by his composure. Nevertheless, they decided to proceed with the hanging. As they were about to hang him, the authorities received a telegram. The telegram stated that due to the crowning of the queen, certain prisoners were granted pardon. Amjad Ali Sahib's name was on that list! He was immediately released. As promised he went home to have breakfast with his mother. In this Karaamat of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, not only was Amjad Ali pardoned but, many other prisoners were pardoned.

In Bareilly Shareef, there was a person who was always apprehensive towards the Ulama, Awliyah and about the Peer-o-Murshid and Mureed relationships. One of his friends, who was on his way to meet A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, asked this person to accompany him and meet A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He also suggested that by discussing his false concepts and beliefs with A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, he will be shown the right path. While discussing whether or

not to go, that person with the false concepts, saw a vendor selling fresh sweetmeats. He said, 'First buy me some sweetmeats then I will go with you.' His friend agreed to buy it for him on the way back home. Nevertheless, after much convincing he agreed to accompany his friend to the house of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. They entered his blessed house and sat there. A Mureed arrived and brought some sweetmeats. It was the procedure in the court of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ that those persons with beards would get two shares, and those without beards would receive only one share as they were still regarded as children. The Mureed who was responsible for distributing the sweetmeats only gave one share to the person who had misconceptions about Awliyah and Ulama. A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, who was present there and witnessing the entire incident, commanded the Mureed to give that person two shares. The Mureed remarked, 'Huzoor! He has no beard. He should get one.' A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ replied, 'Give him two. He desires to have two.' When the person heard this he immediately repented and became the Mureed of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. His desire was to receive two shares and he realised that A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was even aware of the thoughts of his heart.

Works Of A'la Hazrat : To date, it has not been fully ascertained as to exactly how many books A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ wrote. In 1887, At the age of 30 years, he had completed 75 Books and treatises. In 1909, at the age of 43 years, this number increased up to 500. However, it has been estimated that the number of books written by Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ exceed 1 000 encompassing more than fifty branches of knowledge. Apart from these contributions, he had written annotations and commentaries on more than 150 books pertaining to various branches of learning.

The names of a few famous books written by A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ have been listed below:

1. Fatawa Razviyah (12 volumes approx. 12 000 pages)
2. Husaamul Haramain
3. Ad Daulat ul Makkiyah Bil Maadatil Ghaibiya
4. Al Mu'tamadul Mustanad
5. Al Amn-o-Ula
6. Alkaukabatush Shahabiya
7. Al Istimdaad
8. Al Fuyoozul Makkiyah
9. Al Meeladun Nabawiyyah
10. Kanz ul Imaan (translation of Holy Quran)
11. Fauze Mubeen Dar Harkate Zameen
12. Hadayake Bakhshish
13. Subhaanus Subooh
14. As Sam Saam
15. Ahkaame Shariat
16. Az Zubdatuz Zakiya
17. Abna ul Mustafa
18. Tamheed e Imaan
19. Angote Choomne ka Mas'ala

Comments By Supporters And Adversaries:

Ustad Ulama-e-Haram, Allama Sa'eedullah رحمۃ اللہ علیہ: 'My respected brother Hazrat Ahmed Raza رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, who is striving in the path of Nabi صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, is a perfect teacher. May Almighty Allah grant him great reward, and accept his endeavour, and may Almighty Allah build his respect into the hearts of the people of knowledge.' Ameen.

Allama Maulana Umar bin Hamdaan رحمہ اللہ: *'Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمہ اللہ is that great Aalim, great philosopher and such a great researcher that his research baffles the mind. May Almighty Allah protect him and always keep him pleased.'*
Ameen.

Hazrat Shah Aale Rasool رحمہ اللہ (A'la Hazrat's Peer-o-Murshid): *'On the day of Qiyaamah, when Almighty Allah asks me concerning what I had brought for Him from earth, then I will present Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رحمہ اللہ.'*

Hazrat Sayyid Shah Abul Husain Ahmad Noori رحمہ اللہ: *'A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ is the vision and the lamp of the Khandaan-e-Barakaati.'*

Hazrat Allama Ali Hussain Kichawchwi رحمہ اللہ: *'My path of Shariah and Tariqah is that which is the path of Huzoor Purnoor, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمہ اللہ.'*

Professor Dr Ayub Razvi, Head of Department Urdu, Urdu College, Pakistan, Karachi: *'The learned Maulana Ahmad Raza Khan (1856-1921) was a famous scholar, jurist, mathematician, writer and genius. He had special insight in mathematics. There is no parallel to his expertise in jurisprudence.'*

A Western Scholar, Dr Barbara D. Metcalf, Department of History, Barkley University, United States of America: *'He was outstanding from the very beginning on account of his extra-ordinary intelligence. He enjoyed a divine gift of deep insight in Mathematics. It is said that he solved a mathematical problem for Dr Zia'ud'deen for which the learned Mathematician was intending to visit Germany. Ahmed Raza himself was a towering figure, revered for his extra-ordinary memory, mental agility, and intellectual capacity, and honoured as a Mujaddid and a Shaykh. Guarded in his relation to the British Government, he sought above all to guard what he saw as correct practice and make religion vital in the personal life of Muslims of his day.'*

The Poet, Doctor Iqbal: *'I have carefully studied the decrees of Imam Ahmed Raza and thereby formed this opinion; and his Fatawa bear testimony to his acumen, intellectual calibre, the quality of his creative thinking, his excellent jurisdiction and his ocean-like Islamic knowledge. Once Imam Ahmed Raza forms an opinion he stays firm on it; he expresses his opinion after a sober reflection. Therefore, the need never arises to withdraw any of his religious decrees and judgements. With all this, by nature he was hot tempered, and if this was not in the way, then Shah Ahmed Raza would have been the Imam Abu Hanifa of his age.'* (Arafat, 1970, Lahore.) In another place he says, *'Such a genius and intelligent jurist did not emerge.'*

It must be noted that Dr Iqbal's statement on the temper of A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ does not refer to a person who becomes angry for worldly reasons. This temper, was for the sake of the Deen and in the love of Allah and His Rasool ﷺ. The reality, then according to all the learned Ulama, is that A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ was without doubt the Imam Abu Hanifa of his time.

Even his opposition and the most corrupt amongst people such as Ashraf Ali Thanwi (The leader of the deobandis) was forced to say: *'I have great respect in my heart for Ahmed Raza Khan رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He calls us Kaafirs, but he says this only on the basis for his love for the Prophet ﷺ and not out of any other reason.'*

HIS FINAL ADVICE

‘You are the innocent flock of Rasoolullah ﷺ. There are wolves all around you. Their main aim is to mislead you. They intend to plunge you into fitna. They want to take you to Jahanum with them. Protect yourselves from them. Run far away from them, whether, they are deobandi, Raafdhi (shia), naichri, qadiani or chakrelwi. And the newest gandwi fitna that has taken all of them into it. These are all wolves. They are all waiting to snatch your Imaan. Protect your Imaan from their attacks. Huzoor-e-Aqdas ﷺ is the Noor of Allah. The Sahaba attained brightness through Huzoor ﷺ. From them, the Taabi’een gained brightness, from them, the A’ima-e-Mujtahideen gained brightness. We in turn gained brightness from them and we now request you to receive this brightness from us. Take from us, this light. We want this, that you should be brightened through us. This light is this, that you should have true love for Allah and His Rasool ﷺ, and that you should respect his beloved servants and you should have true dislike for their enemies. If you find those who even show the slightest disrespect in the Court of Allah and His Rasool ﷺ, then no matter how close and beloved to you they are, immediately separate yourselves from them. If you find anyone who utters blasphemy in the Court of the Prophet ﷺ, then remove him from within you like you would remove a fly from your milk, even though he may be very respected and close to you. I have explained this, since I was almost fourteen years old and even now, I am saying the very same thing. Allah will definitely appoint someone for the assistance of the Deen, but I do not know about the one who will come after me and what he will explain to you. It is for this reason that you should listen carefully to what I have said. The (Hujjatullah) evidence on behalf of the Deen of Allah has been established. Now, I will not rise from my grave to come and explain this to you. Those of you that have heard and accepted that

which I have said, then for you, there is light and salvation on the last day. For those who have not accepted, then for you, there is darkness and destruction. This is the guidance from the Court of Allah and His Rasool ﷺ, which is being presented. Listen and accept. And for those that are not present here, then it is Fard upon those who are present to warn and pass (what I have said) over to those that are not present.'

A'la Hazrat ﷺ then said, ' You people have never caused me any discomfort. You are the ones who did my chores for me. You never allowed me to do my own chores. May Almighty Allah bless all of you with Jaza-e-Khair. I have faith in all of you, that even in my grave, you will not cause me any discomfort. I have forgiven the entire Ahle Sunnat for anything that is due to me. I humbly request that all of you should forgive any shortcomings on my behalf, and it is an obligation upon those present to request those who are not here to forgive any of my shortcomings.' On hearing these words, all those that were present began to tear, knowing that the time for A'la Hazrat ﷺ to leave the world was near.

Wisaal: Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan ﷺ left this mundane world on Friday, the 25th of Safar 1340 A.H. (28 October 1921) at 2.38 p.m. It was the exact time of the Jummah Azaan.

A saint of Syria, who was in the Baitul Muqaddas, dreamt of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. In his dream, the saint saw many Sahaba-Kiraam (ridwaanullahi ta A'la alaihim ajmaeen) seated around the Holy Prophet ﷺ. All of them seemed to be waiting for someone.

The saint says that in his dream, he asked, 'Ya Rasool'Allah ﷺ Who is being expected?' The Holy Prophet ﷺ replied, 'Ahmed Raza Khan.' The blessed saint then asked, 'Who is Ahmed Raza Khan?' The Holy Prophet ﷺ answered, 'An Aalim from Bareilly.' When this saint awoke, he immediately

journeyed from Syria to Bareilly Shareef to meet A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, but to his dismay, he learnt that A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ had already departed from this world.

Mazaar Shareef: The Mazaar Shareef A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ is situated in Mohalla Saudagran, Bareilly Shareef in India (U.P.). During the Urs Shareef of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ, hundreds of thousands of Muslims from all over the world present themselves in Bareilly Shareef to partake in the Urs Shareef of the Mujaddid of Islam, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. May Almighty Allah shower his choicest blessings upon the Mazaar-e-Anwaar of this great Saint of Islam. *Aameen*

*Ahmed Raza Ka Taaza Gulistan He Aaj Bhi
Khursheed ilm Unka Darakhsha He Aaj Bhi*

*Sub Unse Jalne Waalo Ke Gul Hogaye Chiraagh
Ahmed Raza Ka Sham'a Feroza He Aaj Bhi*